

Application No. 09/694,848
Reply to Advisory Action of December 9, 2005

REMARKS

Presently, claims 16-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been canceled. Claims 16-42 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Entry of Rule 116 Amendment

Entry of the response herein is respectfully requested because such Amendment, in combination with the remarks, render moot the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The present response does not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or searches, since all of the limitations in the pending claims were previously presented, considered and presumably searched. Furthermore, the Amendment resolves all issues raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action and places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. No new matter is raised by this response.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant notes that the Examiner has not acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application on August 5, 2004 (electronically filed) and August 6, 2004 (filed by mail).

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner forward an initialed copy of the above-identified Information Disclosure Statements, showing consideration of all the references listed therein, with the next Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 16-42 are allowable, and that the previous response dated November 3, 2005, overcomes the outstanding final rejection with respect to these claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

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Prior Art Rejection – § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,487,721 to Safadi in view of U.S. Patent 5,687,095 to Haskell *et al.*

In view of the Applicant's cancellation of claims 1-9 herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9 is moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome, and that the application, including claims 16-42, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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